OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
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SPANISH PEANUTS

BY A. H. WRIGHT
Assistant Agronomist

1 **Peanuts Are Drouth Resistant.**—Both the hay and nuts make excellent feed for all kinds of livestock.

2. **Grow the Spanish Variety.**—Many varieties of peanuts are grown in the United States, bue the Spanish variety is the only one of any importance in Oklahoma. The large, white varieties are grown in the Southeastern States, especially in Virgania and Tennessee. These varieties spread out early flat upon the ground and require a much longer period to mature than does the Spanish variety. The Spanish variety grows more nearly erect and matures in from ninety to 110 days. It produces an abundant quantity of small, compact pods with two nuts in a pod. While the seed of this variety is practically the only kind sold on the market in Oklahoma, yet it is well in ordering seed to state that the Spanish variety is the one desired.

3. **Where to Grow Peanuts.**—Peanuts can be grown in nearly every section of Oklahoma. While the large yields are obtained in regions of abundant rainfall, yet very profitable yields are procured in regions which suffer from drouths. At the present time peanuts are grown more extensively in the south and southwestern counties, but there is no reason why they cannot be profitably grown anywhere in the State.

A sandy loam is the best type of soil for peanuts, but they can be grown in nearly any type other than acid, alkali and hard, impervious clay. Difficulty is sometimes experienced in growing peanuts on clay soils which are inclined to "bake" or "crust". If the surface soil forms a crust it may prevent the "pegs" or "spikes" from penetrating the soil. If this happens the yield will be materially decreased as the "spikes" or fruit stems must enter the soil in order to produce the seed pods. It can be readily seen that a loose surface soil is very important. Careful cultivation at the proper time will greately modify such conditions.

4. **Preparing the Seedbed.**—The seedbed for peanuts should be prepared the same as for corn or cotton, usual attention being given to fall and winter plowing. The surface should be as free from clods as possible before the nuts are seeded in order to permit the planting of the seed pods in moist earth.

5. **Procuring Seed.**—So few growers in Oklahoma have procured a good stand of peanuts in the past that it seems particularly advisable to call attention to the subject of good seed. The poor stands procured in this state are invariably caused by the use of poor seed. Hulled seed should not be purchased, for poor stands have nearly always resulted from such seed. Either procure your seed from a grower or from some one who handles homegrown seed, and who you have reason to believe has taken

considerable precaution to obtain well matured seed. If you are already growing peanuts, you should save your own seed. To determine the vitality of peanut seed they must be tested.

The Agronomy Department of the Experiment Station tries to keep in touch with sources of seed and will send such information as is available to any one requesting it.

6. Methods of Planting.—Several metheds and devices are used in planting peanuts. The grower must work out the method that best suits his individual case. To assist him in doing this the following brief discussion is offered: Some common planters can be modified to such an extent that they will successfully plant peanuts. To do this it is necessary to enlarge the holes in the plates, and perhaps it would be well to remove the cut-off also in order to prevent bursting the pods. Some have modified the wooden hopper, one-horse cotton drill to such an extent that they have been able to use it successfully. Homemade planters devised on the principle of a revolving drum have also been used. Where small areas only are grown, hand planting is practical, but where peanuts are grown to any considerable extent it will pay to invest in some standard peanut planter. There are now on the market planters which will plant not only peanuts, but corn, cotton and sorghums as well. Such a planter makes a very useful combination.

7. Preparing Seed for Planting.—Hulled peanuts should not be used for seed. Always plant Spanish peanuts in the pod.

While good results are secured from planting the dry pods, yet it will often pay to soak the seed. This can be done by adding enough water to the peanuts to thoroughly moisten the pods, but no free water should be present. They should be allowed to soak from thirty-six to forty-eight hours; then plant at once in moist earth. The soaked seed should not be planted in dry soil.

Professor H. L. McKnight of the Texas Agricultural College recommends the following method of treating peanuts to prevent damage from moles and mice: For two bushels of Spanish peanuts in the pod take a five-cent bar of soap and shave it up fine. Dissolve the soap shavings in 1 gallon of boiling water, stirring thoroughly for ten minutes. When the soap is entirely dissolved add one-half pint of kerosene (coal oil) and stir again for ten minutes. Take this hot liquid mixture of soap and oil and mix it in a barrel with water sufficient to soak two bushels of peanuts in the pod. When using this method the same precaution should be used as when soaking them in water; that is, have sufficient liquid only to moisten the pods, but have no free liquid.

8. Depth of Planting.—Peanuts should be planted in moist earth if possible in order to insure a good stand. This can be best accomplished by planting them in a shallow lister furrow, using a covering device that will firm the soil to such an extent that no large air spaces will be left around the seed. If soaked seed are planted it is absolutely essential that they be planted in moist earth, otherwise they will dry out and the vitality will be destroyed. The depth of planting will vary, depending upon the time of seeding and the moisture content of the soil. From one to two inches will represent the usual limits.

9. **Time of Planting.**—Peanuts, like kafir and other sorghums, make a slow growth early in the spring and should not be planted until the soil is warm. They are usually planted considerably later than corn and a little later than cotton, or from about the first of May until the last of June. Under normal conditions they should be seeded in May, but since it requires but ninety days to mature a crop, if weather conditions are favorable, they may be seeded fairly late and still produce a fair yield.

10. **Distance Apart and Rate of Planting.**—In Oklahoma, Spanish peanuts are usually seeded in rows three feet apart and one pod every twelve to fourteen inches in the row. Seed that is low in germination should be seeded thicker in the row. When seeded as above mentioned it will require from one to two bushels per acre of peanuts in the pod. It is advisable to plant from one and a half to one and three-fourths bushels.

11. **Cultivation.**—Peanuts should be cultivated the same as corn, cotton, or any other cultivated crop until the pods begin to form. After this no cultivating should be done unless the land is very foul with weeds or the surface soil is badly crusted, and even then it may not be advisable.

12. **Harvesting.**—If peanuts are grown for hog feed the most economical method to harvest them is to "hog them down". This can be done by either turning the hogs in the field before the vines have been removed, or by first removing the vines for hay and leaving the nuts in the soil for the hogs. While both methods are good, the latter is probably more profitable. In harvesting the vines only, a common mowing machine can be used, or, in other words, the same methods can be used as for harvesting alfalfa or other hay crops. If the vines are harvested before the hogs are turned on the field, a considerable quantity of very good hay is secured, and practically none of the crop will be lost.

When peanuts are grown for the purpose of marketing the nuts, either for seed or for commercial purposes, the following methods of harvesting the crop are suggested: Where only small patches are grown they can be pulled by hand. Where several acres are grown, hand pulling is out of the question, and some kind of machinery must be used. A common stirring plow, from which the moldboard has been removed, will serve the purpose. It should be run to such a depth that the roots are cut just below the pods. The best method is to use a common potato digger or regular peanut harvester. If very many acres are grown, an investment in a peanut harvester will be found profitable.

There are several reliable makes of peanut harvesters on the market, a list of which is given under the paragraph on peanut machinery.

13. **Curing.**—The common method of field-curing peanuts by stacking them around stakes, as practiced in the Southeastern States is not practicable in Oklahoma, especially when large areas are grown.

If proper care is taken the peanuts can be allowed to field-cure from four to five days and then stacked in ricks the same as alfalfa. In using this method, however, it is well to remember that peanuts make a very coarse and open stack, and unless they are well covered will be readily damaged by rain. Great care should be exercised in stacking; the middle should be kept full and as compact as possible, and the sides should be built up straight. Board coverings, canvas coverings, or hay sheds can be used to good advantage.

14. **Threshing.**—Farmers who grow but small patches of peanuts pick them by hand, but where large areas are grown a peanut thresher is a necessity. If a community interest in peanuts is developed to such an extent that considerable areas are devoted to the crop in one neighborhood, the farmers can combine and purchase a peanut thresher, or some individual can afford to procure one to thresh the crop in the vicinity. The matter of cooperation here, as well as in many other things, plays a very important part.

15 **Peanut Machinery.**—Below is given a list of companies which either manufacture or sell peanut machinery. Any of these companies will be glad to furnish you any information at their disposal:

Peanut Diggers

Cardwell Machine Company, Richmond, Virginia.
Champion Potato Machinery Company, Hammond, Indiana.

Peanut Pickers

Cardwell Machine Company, Richmond, Virginia.
Benthall Machine Company, Suffolk, Virginia.

Peanut Planter (Gang-Horse)

Columbia Planter Company, Springfield, Ohio.

Peanut Planters (Single-row, One-horse)

American Seeding Machine Company, Springfield, Ohio.
American Seeding Machine Company, Richmond, Indiana.
J. R. Ayers, Petersburg, Virginia.
Champion Potato Machinery Company, Hammond, Indiana.
W. R. Whitehearst Company, Norfolk, Virginia.
Moline Plow Company, Moline, Illionis.
The Cole Manufacturing Company, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Peanut Planters (Single-row, Wheel-Hand)

Columbia Planter Company, Springfield, Ohio.
McWhorter Manufacturing Company, Riverton, New Jersey.

Peanut Planters (Single-row, Riding, Two-horse)

Texas Implement and Machine Company, Dallas, Texas.

Peanut Planters (Two-row, One-horse)

McWhorter Manufacturing Company, Riverton, New Jersey.

Peanut Plows

Oliver Chilled Plow Works, South Bend, Indiana.

Peanut Separators

Cardwell Machine Company, Richmond, Virginia.

Peanut Shellers

Cardwell Machine Company, Richmond, Virginia.

Peanut Threshers

Cardwell Machine Company, Richmond, Virginia.
J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, Racine, Wisconsin.
Ellis Keystone Agricultural Works, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.
Heebner & Sons, Lansdale, Pennsylvania.